



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



February 13, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRALIZED HOUSING AND
CLASSIFICATION QUARTERLY UPDATE**

On January 17, 2006, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) provide quarterly updates on the new centralized classification and housing system for inmates, including implementation and adherence of new protocols and policies, the timeliness and accuracy of reclassifications, and ongoing staff training.

Since the last quarterly update report to your Board on October 17, 2006, the Department has continued the implementation of a centralized housing policy based upon inmate security levels. Assessing appropriate inmate security levels is critical in determining suitable housing for inmates. Although security level housing for general population inmates has been implemented at all facilities, housing areas that have inmates with special needs, such as mental illness, are being scrutinized to determine how to address security level issues while providing appropriate services for those inmates. Many of the solutions are innovative and specific to the particular housing location. The Centralized Housing Unit is directly involved in addressing these special areas, with the goal that security level be the primary consideration in all housing locations.

Inmate security levels can be changed for a variety of reasons after the inmates are assigned to housing (dropped charges, additional charges/warrants, sentencing, discipline, etc.). The Centralized Housing Unit audits assigned housing areas each day for inmates whose security levels do not match their housing locations, and arrangements are made to have these inmates moved to appropriate housing locations.

A Tradition of Service

Due to the constantly changing demographics of the inmate population, the Centralized Housing Unit reviews and adjusts the Department's master housing plan to facilitate the maximum usage of available bed space.

The Federal Court recently ordered the removal of 1,200 beds from the Men's Central Jail (MCJ). This order caused the processing of male inmates in the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) to slow down considerably while inmates awaited appropriate housing. Inmates could only be moved out of IRC after bed space became available at MCJ and Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF). This bed space was created by transporting inmates to Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) facilities for housing. However, special inmate handling categories, the need for medical and psychiatric care, and the geographic requirements of certain courthouses severely limited the number of inmates that qualified for housing at PDC. The resulting housing shortfall created significant time delays for inmates awaiting assignment from IRC to permanent jail housing locations.

On October 27, 2006, Federal Court Judge Dean Pregerson issued an injunction against the Department requiring that inmates remain in IRC holding cells for no more than 24 hours. The Centralized Housing Unit is determined to find solutions to comply with this order, including implementation of the following:

- The development of a comprehensive inmate location scanning system to document the actual amount of time inmates spend in IRC.
- The identification of a disproportionate number of vacant beds at PDC facilities, which resulted in the redeployment of Medical Services Bureau personnel to the PDC North Annex Facility to provide an increased level of inmate medical care. This redeployment allowed the Department to move approximately 300 inmates who were on prescribed medication from MCJ and TTCF to PDC for permanent housing.
- Greater proficiency at identifying appropriate housing options for the inmate jail population, allowing for increased efficiency in housing alternatives.

The Centralized Housing Unit remains a critical component in responding to inmate housing challenges, and is committed to continuously looking for new and innovative ways to manage the jail environment.

February 13, 2007

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Chief Marc Klugman, Correctional Services Division, at (213) 893-5017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF